THE CAMELHA

Circus edition

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MELHA SHRINERS On the Web at www.melhashriners.com

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Original circus poster from 1955

Discover What Fun Used To Be At The Melha Shrine Circus



Photo by Bert Krasner. Starting a new family tradition at the 2016 Melha Shrine Circus. This little cutie is a member of the "Slim The Clown" fan club.

By Michael Robinson

The Melha Shrine Circus is now turning 63, a 'Baby Boomer'. The new generation of fans that are coming up are called "millennials". There's big generational change coming. Millennials, the digital generation, are consuming much of their entertainment, news, communications, collaborative school work, etc. on the internet. They are tethered by apps, either on a cell phone, tablet, or notebook pc.

Some say that millennials would not want to go to a circus their grandparents went to. It is going to be boring, it does not speak to them, they're too busy with friends, blah, blah, blah. Oh, and didn't Ringling Bros go under after 146 years? Well, Isn't that proof enough?

My answer to that is

Continued on page 10

Jack Bethel: A Life Of Dedication

By Michael Robinson

There is a framed illustration of Ill. Jack Bethel hanging in the "library" which now bears his name. The date at the bottom 1984, is the year he served as Potentate. I was curious to know something about Jack. [The following was excerpted from Jack Bethel's 1984 resume]. Jack Bethel was a home-grown boy and became an exceptional clarinet player. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1946 serving as a corporal with the 15th Air Force Band until his discharge in 1948. He graduated Dartmouth College in 1952 and cum laude from Western from New England College of Law in

Continued on page 15



POTENTATE'S MESSAGE



Raymond A. Turrini - Potentate

Well, another month has gone by. We started the month of February with the Oriental Band's Valentine's Dance. As always, President Chris Parker and the members of the band did a great job with the awesome band and the outstanding food. Great job. It was great to see our counterparts Potentate Domenic DiStefano and First Lady Karilyn of Rhode Island along with their (Ours) own Alan and Annie Kinsley. It was so nice to have them visit us and the OB. Next was the Aleppo Shriners visitation. Its always a thrill to see most of our counterparts from the Northeast gather together. Ill. Sir Frank Mason and First Lady Joanne made everyone feel very welcome. We had a great time at the LuLaRoe sale put on by our SUPERGIRL Amber Ryals. They couldn't say it enough what a great time the ladies had at Melha. Thank you to all of them for supporting Melha. Then at the end of the week, we had the Game supper where, as always, it was a packed house of hungry eaters. A tip of the Fez to Bob and Dave and their endless helpers that make this event so successful over the 26 years that it has gone on.

March started off with Mr. Rainbow at Mt. Moriah and our own Gerald "Fix it" Ducharme Jr. and Art Hastings Jr. participated in the event. Art placed in Mr. Congeniality and Fix it placed as 2nd runner up. It was a great evening for the scholarship fund. There were plenty of people in the sidelines cheering both nobles on. Thank you to all that participated.

Mid-Winter meetings were held in Ottawa Canada this week I would imagine it will be COLD up there. We also have the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America Inc. Installation of Past Imperial First Lady Pat Semb as the new High Princesses for Helma Court No. 64. That same day we had the Leprechaun Plunge at Brunelles Marina. There were a lot of crazy people running into freezing cold water. But there is no better charity to do it for than our own Shriners Hospitals for Children. This event promises to raise a lot of money each year and I can't wait to see the results.

The following day we headed East to Worcester, MA for the first St. Patrick's Day Parade. WOW, it was frigid; had to be one of the coldest parades on record at 13 degrees. Hopefully St. Patrick looks down on us and gives us a break.

The end of the week we have the Daughters of the Nile installation with the wonderful Sandy Dodson as the New Queen. I know she will do well leading her hard working team this year. All the best.

First Lady Denise and I, along with Past First Lady Robin Johnson (2011), Capt. Of the Guard, Mike Cote and his Lady Wendy, Chief Rabban, Bob Wogatske and Lady Norma and our Melha clowns attended McCarthy's Pub last fundraiser for the Leprechaun Plunge. I can't say how much money was raised that

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CAMELHA

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CAMELHA DEADLINE 12TH OF THE MONTH

Forward UNIT EVENT information for advance publication and public news releases. 'NEWSPAPER ENTERTAINMENT CALENDARS' need info submitted 2 weeks prior to event.

ALL CONTENT [Articles, Event Notices, Event Photos] for the CAMELHA must be submitted by E-MAIL OR HARD COPY on or before the 12th of the month preceding publication.

All Classified and Billboard Ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month.

NOTE: EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL COPY.

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..... 508-344-4472
.....randy.wessels@comcast.net
Capt. of the Guard.....Michael Cote
413-262-5105.bakdraft88@outlook.com

FROM THE RECORDER

PAST POTENTATES OF MELHA SHRINE

Name	Year
Charles Miller *	1897-1902
William H. Titus *	1903-1904
H. Leroy Woodward *	1905
Charles L. Young *	1906-1907
Robert P. Cunningham *	1908-1909
Fred R. Brown *	1910
Frank E. Ladd *	1911 - 1912
Albert E. Taylor *	1913
Hugh J. Buckley *	1914
Fred A. Eldred *	1915
Albert E. Lerche *	1916-1917
Franklin A. Latimer *	1918-1919
Walter H. Damon *	1920-1921
Fred C. Smith *	1922
Harry H. Caswell *	1923
Charles F. Watson *	1924
Charles A. Frazer *	1925
John A. Webster *	1926-1927
Walter S. Pease *	1928
George M. Hendee *	1929
Harry A. Spaight *	1930
Carl P. Reilly *	1931
Edward S. Chase *	1932
Arlan M. Spencer *	1933
Paul H. Hosmer *	1934
Henry K. Fruch *	1935
Walter E. Perry *	1936-1937
John G. Rose *	1938
Norman P. Dempsey *	1939
Alfred J. Bird *	1940
George W. Streeter *	1941
William L. McCleary *	1942
George G. Carr *	1943
William E. Grobe *	1944
Earl C. Daniels *	1945
Dr. George W. Gray *	1946
Donald H. Mudd *	1947
Wesley G. Stephens *	1948
Otto C. Kuhrt *	1949
Theodore A. Wiel *	1950
Donald A Bartlett *	1951
James Matthew *	1952
Chester W. Haynes *	1953
V. Frank Greis *	1954
Fred S. Conkey *	1955
Ralph F. Beaudry *	1956
Wayne H. Latham *	1957
Bennett W. Benson *	1958
Norman R. Vestor *	1959
Jule Kaufman *	1960
Robert E. Samble *	1961
Richard C. Zoller *	1962
Elliot Anderson *	1963
John Baird *	1964
Carl B. Martin Jr. *	1965
H. Edward Baker *	1966
Harold E. Kjoller *	1967
George Aronson *	1968
Maurice M. Chaffin *	1969
Dr. Kenneth E. Nicholson *	1970
Robert W. Nothacker *	1971
Jean R. LaCroix *	1972
Phillip E. Taylor *	1973
John M. Samson *	1974
Maurice H. Baitler *	1975
William G. Kavaney *	1976
Edward W. Bock *	1977
John R. Lundgren *	1978
Robert D. Davis *	1979
Kenneth E. Emery *	1980
Robert A. Meffen*	1981
Jack A. Butterfield *	1982
Allen G. Zippin	1983
John E. Bethel*	1984
Joseph A. Harrison*	1985
Donald J. Lohnes *	1986
Imp. Ralph W. Semb	1987
Gordon J. Smith *	1988
Clyde O. Hooper Jr. *	1989
David Skolnick *	1990
W. Douglas Spingler	*1991
Richard C. Bewsee	1992
Norman T. Maagero	1993
Arthur E. Hastings	1994
Edward W. Shore Jr.	1995
Sheldon M. Titcomb	1996
Charles H. Weaver	1997
Philip E. Thomas	1998
Robert G. Spaulding Jr.	1999
David J. Gates	2000
Edgar W. Gelinas	2001
Edwin A. Os *	2002
Robert H. Marshall	2003
Anton E. Koss	2004
James W. Marceau	2005
Tom D. Fielding	2006
Kirk E. Burkins	2007
James H. Blevins	2008
Ronald R. Gagnon	2009
Jeffrey S. Goodless	2010
Russell D. Mitchell	2012
Edward F Griffin	2013
William Faust	2014
David F. Butterfield	2015
E. Brian Connor	2016
Raymond A. Turrini	2017

**deceased*

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Phil Thomas, PP - Recorder

Two great fun events occurred and I hope you attended. The Chili Cook Off and the Oriental Band Valentine Dance. Now, get your uniform and vehicle ready for the parade season. Also, you registered parade car insurance certificates into the office. March 12 will be the Worcester Parade, followed by the Holyoke parade on the 19th.

Need a Melha calendar? Stop in at the Recorders office.

Shriners International is planning to print the Inaugural Member Directory and will be gathering information and photos from Nobles, temples, clubs, and units. You may have received a post card from Publishing Concepts (PCI). Please respond. They encourage clubs and units to capture their activities in images that can be used in the directory. Any Shriner can exclude himself from this directory. Hope to see you at the events and don't forget we need new members, just say would you like to be a Shriner?

STATED MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 7:30 PM for the purpose of conducting the business of Melha Shriners, as well as, balloting on individuals for initiation, obligating candidates, and for the dissemination of information to the membership on matters relating to current Shrine events.

All nobles invited to attend, current dues card is required. Units and Clubs leaders are required to attend.

Proper attire is required and please wear your fez.

Raymond A. Turrini, Potentate

Attest, Philip E. Thomas, P.P. Recorder

Life Cycles

BLACK CAMEL

John Lewarn Feb 8
Ernest Brunault Jr Feb 10
Stuart Hurwitz Feb 14
Donald Safford Mar 2
Mark Feder Mar 4
Black Camels
Ernest Brunault Jr Feb 10
Stuart Hurwitz Feb 14
John Lewarn Feb 8
Mark Feder Mar 4
Donald Safford Mar 2
Jean LaCroix PP Feb 16

MILLION DOLLAR CLUB

In Honor of Carl Hart as High Priestess of Sar-I Court

From Michelle Greaves P.H.P.

In Honor of Jerry "Fix-It" Ducharme

For recognition of outstanding service to Melha Shrine

In Honor of Bill "Railz" MacKinnon

For recognition of outstanding service to Melha Shrine

In Honor of Chris "Chowe" Howe

For recognition of outstanding service to Melha Shrine

Continued on page 4

LIFE CYCLES

Continued from page 3

OASIS INVESTMENT FUND

$2000 Donation

In Memory of Dr. Hugh W. Edmonds, Kimba Howes & Dolores Wozniak

From Sarajane E. Whiting and Steve Wozniak (Vintage Auto)

In Memory of Ill. Jean LaCroix

From the Cabiri

In Memory of Ill. Jean LaCroix

From the ROJ 144

In Memory of Noble Mark E. Feder

From the ROJ 144



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Curtis Dore....4-1
Laurence Moriarty....4-2
Kevin Fournier Sr....4-2
Lester Eldridge Sr....4-3
Steven Horowitz....4-3
Donald Sacco Jr....4-3
Bernard Sears....4-4
Patrick Fitzgerald....4-4
Richard Fulkerson....4-4
Edward Thibodeau....4-4
James Duval Jr....4-4
Robert Szczepaniak....4-4
Dean Clement....4-4
Arthur Booth Jr....4-5
David Moskin....4-5
Erik Semb....4-5
Henry Burnell Sr....4-6
Donald Skole....4-6
Nelson Assarian....4-6
Geoffrey Berman....4-6
William Paul....4-6
Felix Parker....4-6
Charles Jewart....4-6
Donald Hosmer....4-7
Marvin Levitt....4-7
Steven Brode....4-7
Gary Block....4-7
Edward Comini....4-7
Robert Briggs....4-7
James Gennette....4-7
James Voss....4-8
Sheldon Titcomb....4-8
Gus Chrisanthopoulos....4-8
Michael Christodlous....4-8
Maximilian Rubacha....4-8
John Shaw Sr....4-9
Martin Lebowitz....4-9
Jeffrey Hastings....4-9
Kenneth Trostle....4-10
Ralph Colby....4-10
David Cheney....4-12
John La Belle....4-12
Joseph Fournier Jr....4-12
James Gadbois Jr....4-12
Thomas Gessing....4-13
Richard Grenier....4-13
Walter Mosio....4-14
John Logan Jr....4-14
James Perez....4-14
Edward Talbot....4-15
Fred Brown Jr....4-15
Joseph Zajac Jr....4-16
Charles Stacy....4-16
Christopher Howe....4-16
Jacek Bucior....4-16
Gary Moreau....4-17
Corey LaCrosse....4-17
Jeffrey Burstein....4-17
John Fluckiger....4-18
Benjamin Horowitz....4-18
Leland Cobb Jr....4-18
Ronald Benoit....4-18
David St Denis....4-18
John Maclean....4-19
David Masters Jr....4-19
Allen Zippin....4-20
Thomas Carriveau....4-20
Nathan Feder....4-20
Robert Colson....4-21
Paul Schafer....4-21
Richard Birk....4-21
Keith Raftery....4-22
Lawrence Outhuse....4-22
Herbert Johnson....4-22
Richard Smart Jr....4-22
Jason Corey....4-22
Norman Smith....4-23
James Pease....4-23
James Donnelly....4-23
Joel Miller....4-23
David Greenberg....4-23
Rodrigo Gordon....4-23
Jason Providakes....4-24
Nicholas Creanza....4-24
Robert Pickford....4-25
Michael Grabowski....4-25
Sterling Watts....4-25
Christopher Parker....4-25
Michael Morris....4-26
Andrew Karpinski....4-27
Peter Rubenstein....4-27
Albert Adams....4-27
Ernest Reed....4-27
Robert Marshall....4-28
Robert Murray....4-28
Raymond Ronander....4-28
Carlton Goldberg....4-28
Karl Waltermire....4-28
Arthur Hastings Jr....4-28
Brian Dubay....4-29
Albert Goldberg....4-30
Marcel Bissonnette....4-30
Wisam Isam....4-30

POTE'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

day, but I can tell you WOW. Terry and her staff are amazing people.

On March 25, we had the Oriental Band Pasta night. If you didn't attend, then you missed out on another super dinner. President Chris Parker and the band always put on a great dinner.

Early April brings our Highlanders Fling, Worthy Chief Garth Parker said this is the

Continued on page 9

Melha Board Launches The New "Oasis Investment Fund"



The Board of Directors have created an opportunity for you to invest in the future of Melha Shrine. Donations to this NEW "Oasis Investment Fund" will help defray some of the ever growing expenses of our building. The fund will be managed by the Melha Administrators with all donations placed in an interest bearing account. Only the interest will be used for expenses of the building with expenditures being voted on by the Nobles.

Donation Ideas:

• Remember or honor a family member, friend or fraternity member. • Congratulate someone for an accomplishment, anniversary, birthday, graduation, birth of a child, grandchild or even great-grand child • Mark a new job or life achievement. **c)** Make a difference for friend, relative, or a Noble just submit your donation into the office.

A certificate will be mailed to the receiving party. Any questions can referred to the Recorder. Please consider this opportunity to invest in your Melha Shrine home.

SHRINE UNITS

CLOWNS

By Jerry "Fix-It" Ducharme, Chief

Why did the cookie go to the hospital? He felt crumby! Okay that was bad I know but I bet you smiled anyway.

Welcome to another bunch of ramblings from some clown you all know, Me. Want to talk about last month's weather? Nope me either, I don't blame you. So, let us discuss clowns and the funny things they do. Let's see we have had a couple of parades and as always, they are fun. Getting to interact with the public before it kicks off and then during the parade is the best and makes our time out there when it is freezing cold or blistering hot all worth it. Speaking of freezing, the Leprechaun plunge happened last month also and was as always COLD but more importantly a huge success Thanks goes out to all who support this cause and also to all who go in the water. Did I you ask? What are you crazy! I am a baby when it comes to the cold.

The circus is coming and your favorite clowns are well under way in planning a great show for you. We are practicing our skits and cleaning our outfits and are excited to perform for you. Have you always wanted to be a clown and didn't know how? Well after this year's circus you will know how it is done. We are also bringing back the Shaving Cream. Who doesn't like to see the clowns and their antics in the ring making a mess and slinging the cream. It is going to be fun and I guarantee that you will be laughing and amazed.

We have lots of gigs in store for you to get out and see us and for now I will leave you with another joke. What has eight wheels and flies? A garbage truck! Until next time, Bump-A-Nose.

DIRECTORS

By Bill Tardy 2nd V.P.

I've recovered from the frigid cold of both the Leprechaun Plunge and the Worcester St. Patrick's Parade. Luckily, we dodged the storm for the Holyoke Parade. Thank you to all of the guys who were on the street representing our unit.

After a busy parade month in March, we have a little bit of a break in April. The month starts off with the Highlanders Spring Fling. Please see one of the officers of the Highlanders for tickets to this event held right here in our Shrine Center on April 1. That event is followed up by the Potentate's weekend on April 7-9. Then, your very own Directors will be at the Eastfield Mall on April 14-15 selling our Easter Bunnies for all the children to enjoy on Easter Morning. We could use some help during this weekend to help man the table at the mall. Check with the Unit Officers for more info. And as always, we have our unit Meeting on April 13 with a traditional Baked Ham

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Photo by Bert Krasner. 2011 Melha Shrine Circus

UNITS AND CLUBS

Continued from page 5

Easter Dinner and the Stated Meeting on April 26. Come on out and join us for the Fun and Fellowship. Remember help us help the children. And isn't that the reason all of us are here in this Organization?

At our March meeting, we received a detailed Treasurer's report from Noble Richard Fulkerson. What a great job he is doing taking over the task of running our finances. Speaking of finances, don't forget to send your 2017 dues to him right away.

We also discussed the Fenway trip which is at about 50% full. Let's spread the word to fill the bus soon as Vince needs to get the details complete in the coming months. Plans are in the works for attending the SDA in Milwaukee. More info to follow next month.

That's it for now. I'll see you around.

DRUM CORPS

By Jim Marceau,PP

So much going on! We have agreed to sell tee shirts at the circus this year with the Daughters of the Nile and will need bodies at all performances. We will make a commission on all sales, so this is important. Check your calendars for available dates and let Ron know. We will be keeping a volunteer list to insure enough coverage.

Our Legends of Rock Show is set for May 27. The ensemble will close the show on that evening, so your attendance is a must. Tickets are $15.00 per person.

If women can have PMS, then can men have ESPN?
If you take an Oriental man and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented? Why do you call the man who invests all your money a broker? Inquiring minds want to know.

It was nice to see both Wally and Lou back in the unit room the end of February. I can't remember the last time that happened. Lets face it, the Corps has had more than its share of injuries and illnesses recently. It's time we got a break.

So why is it that someone can tell you that there are a billion stars in the universe and you will believe them, but when you see a sign that says 'Wet Paint' you have to touch it to be sure? Ponder that and Rock the Fez!

FLYERS

By Lance Whitcomb

Time again to put pencil to paper and come up with great words of wisdom or something! On March 4th, I went up to Inverness to an outdoor degree. We watched four new Master Masons take the 3rd degree. Past Master Peter Carter did excellent degree work. It was not hot, just windy, blowing papers all around. We broke for lunch between sections and were served a great BBQ meal.

I am planning to go to Egypt Shrine Temple in Tampa, FL for a stated meeting. Their Imperial Potentate will be visiting. Tonight, I'll be attending the Hernando Shrine Club. Some members prepare a meal prior to the meeting. Sometimes it is mystery meat!

Spring has arrived – nights are really cold – 50 degrees or better! Days are warmer – 70's or better. My dog's quarters in the garage are very comfortable. Remember to visit your Blue Lodge, or for a change visit a neighboring Lodge. I'm sure they'll love to have you.

HADJI

By Don Sacco, Jr

I want to thank everyone who was able to make to both St. Patrick's Day parades. Despite the cold weather, a good time was had by all. We have the Turners Falls parade coming up on the 22nd at 1pm. Also, it's time to get ready for the circus. Remember this is the biggest fund-raiser for Melha. There is a lot of work to do that weekend so we need all the help we can get. Once again thanks for everyone's hard work.

HIGHLANDERS

By Saul Michaelson, P.C.

When you receive this message, we will have marched in both the Worcester and Holyoke parades and hopefully everyone enjoyed participating as much as the people on the sidelines enjoyed seeing us. The parades remind us that spring is coming and along with it the parade season, the Melha Shrine Circus and soon we'll be playing golf again.

A very special thank you goes out to Ill. Phil Thomas

Continued on page 7

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Website
annegelinas.raveis.com
Email: anne.gelinas@raveis.com

UNITS AND CLUBS

Continued from page 6

for all the work he did to make sure that all proper procedures were in place for the election of the Chief Rabban. Phil made sure all the necessary requirements were met. Learning from this experience, those procedures may be helpful at every Annual Meeting.

Seven Highlanders attended the annual smoker at Aleppo Shrine. As always, the food and the warm reception we received made the whole event great.

We have a good slate of officers this year. And with their dedication, we can expect a very productive year for the Highlanders.

LEGION OF HONOR

By Michelle Greaves

The seats are filling fast for the annual Legion of Honor trip to Washington DC. Call me soon to make reservations. Make sure that all your security questions are answered completely and in writing so I can send them along to Cong. Richard Neal's tour coordinator by May. Without this information, you will not be allowed on the White House and US Capitol tours. Thank you for your cooperation. Michelle Greaves 23 Droy Circle, Easthampton, MA. 01027

Washington Trip Itinerary:

Thu, Nov 2 - Meet at Melha 7:30 am, dinner at the D.C. Hotel 7pm

Fri, Nov 3 - White House and US Capitol tours. 5pm dinner. 8pm Kennedy Center show "Sheer Madness"

Sat, Nov 4 - 9am Memorial Service in hotel banquet hall. Bus trip to Arlington National Cemetery for placing wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. back to hotel for a turkey dinner. 2pm bus tour of FDR, WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials. Return to hotel for a pizza party in our hospitality room

Sun, Nov 5 - 8:30am bus for home. Mid-trip meal at a restaurant

It will be a fun filled weekend and also a patriotic and sobering one as well; If you have ever attended this annual National Legion of Honor event you would agree. If it is your first time, you will always remember it. Seating is limited so reserve your spot now.

UPDATE: Cong. Richard Neil's D.C. office will be confirming the White House and US Capitol tours as soon as everyone has submitted their security information. These 2 buildings are considered high security areas. Information required: 1. Full name including middle name. 2. Social Security Number. 3. Date of Birth 4. Country of your birth. 5. Current residence (City, state, zipcode) 6. Gender 7. Proof of citizenship (passport or a copy of your birth certificate)

If you have any further questions please contact me at c 413-427-9178 or michgreaves@hotmail.com.

PAST MASTERS

By Richard A. Poudrier

As I commence penning this article. I am distracted by the news of the approaching "Nor'easter" snow storm, named Stella. Thinking of all the things which one must deal with until it's over. Asking myself why I came back from my extended stay in 80+ degree weather.

President Ken White received the raffle tickets for our unit's 7 seat, front row center box for the Melha Circus's Saturday, May 6th 7:30 pm. show. Tickets are $5 each, or a book of 5 for $20. Contact Ken at 413-567-4240. The drawing will be one week before the performance. The Circus runs from May 4th-7th.

Our 4th Annual BBQ picnic will be at Nonotuck Park in Easthampton, MA Thursday, June 22. It will be catered by Myer's Catering of Easthampton, MA. Mark your calendars so you don't miss this popular event.

The president announced that on our dark months we will try to visit the local Blue Lodges.

Our unit's next quarterly meeting will be Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

VINTAGE AUTOS

By Ken Taylor

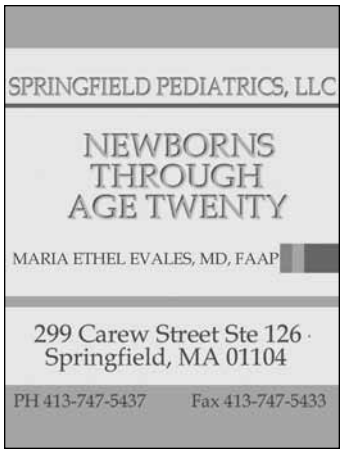
If you did not come to the meeting in March, you missed out on a free meal of hot dogs, salad and beans. The room was pretty full with about 30 guys.

The Saint Patrick's Day parades are over and looking forward, there is nothing else in April except income tax time. There are parades in May and more will be announced later.

Further ahead in June, we will be doing a paper drive. We

Continued on page 8









UNITS AND CLUBS

Continued from page 7

have always done very well in donations in the past few years. Plan on helping out by signing up for a two hour stint on the third Saturday in June at the Westfield Walmart. The more people who help, the more we can make for the hospital.

I have been reminiscing about some of the past shows we have had. One event that I thought that had been fun was the car games. For example, driving, one car at a time, to a distant marker while blindfolded. The driver who gets the closest to the marker, wins. Think this might help the show participation??

Keep June 11 open for the Pioneer Valley GTO Club Meet. This show is open to all cars.

BERKSHIRE SHRINE CLUB

By Rita Gardner

Our March meeting was Thursday, March 9th at the Bass Water Grill in Cheshire, MA. I want to reinforce the new monthly meeting day which was changed to the 2nd Thursday of the month and our permanent meeting place is the Bass Water Grill. This meeting started on a very sad note, as most everyone had come from the viewing for our Treasurer Mark Feder, who had passed away on Saturday, March 4th. Mark was a really nice guy and was often thought of as the "glue" that held the BSC together. He worked with Custom City Cycle on the Fall Run; the Aggie Fair; the Steven Ferrara Golf Tournament and many other club fund-raisers. He was very active in the Berkshire Lodge of Masons and had served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 30th Masonic District from 2013 to 2015. It was estimated that there were at least 100 members of the Masonic Fraternity at his Evergreen ceremony.

Melha Potentate Ray Turrini and his Lady Denise joined us for dinner as did Marshall Randy Wessels and Ron Gagnon, P.P. and his wife Sally. Before dinner, Ill. Ray installed officers David Rhinemiller as President, Robert Ciempa as 2nd Vice President and Keven Lehrer as Secretary.

The March meeting is also our annual 'Appreciation Day' where we thank the various entities who support us in our efforts to raise money for the hospital. Those receiving certificates of appreciation were the Hancock Fire Department for allowing us to take part in their Memorial Day Parade, Harry's Super Market for collecting thousands of aluminum tabs, the City of Pittsfield 4th of July parade committee for allowing us to participate in their 4th of July parade and Custom City Cycle for raising over $500k for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

It was a unanimous vote to make 'Appreciation Day' in the future "Mark E. Feder Memorial Appreciation Day". Since this was his "baby" so to speak, it was only fitting.

By the time you read this column, the Leprechaun Plunge, the Worcester Parade and the Holyoke Parade will be history. The Potentate's reception is April 7 & 8. This is always a fun time and you get to don your glad rags and party away. The Franklin County Spring parade will be on April 22 and the ads for the Circus program are due now. The Circus begins on May 4th and runs through May 7th. Bob and Nancy Waltermire are always in need of ushers, so give them a call if you can help (413) 663-5472.

That's all for this month folks, hopefully next month will find us in happier, sunnier and warmer times.

PIONEER VALLEY SHRINE CLUB

By Michelle Greaves

Sawasdeeka (hello) I hope everyone thawed out from the Leprechaun Plunge and dried out from the St. Patrick's Parades. Also, enjoyed the Installations of Helma Court #64 and Ahlem Temple No. 84, March was a really full month, PHEW!!!!!

There is still room for the dinner theater event. Sunday April 30th at Exit 7 in Ludlow. The show is "The Producers" to followed by dinner across the street at Brigham Masonic Lodge. Theater tickets $15.00 and dinner is $10.00 it is $25.00 per person. Inexpensive for an afternoon of fun. We will be meeting in the theater parking lot at 1:30 pm. To make reservations call (413) 427-9178

This year's Family Picnic is July 22nd at Buttery Brook in South Hadley. It will really be a fun day with a playground for kids, a little zoo, games for all, delicious food, and awesome fellowship. The tickets are $10.00 per person, under 12 no charge.

Come one, come all, bring your children, your grandchildren and of course yourselves. There are pavilions so it is rain or shine. Let's hope for shine. Future events that are still in the planning stage are; Go Ten Restaurant, a Casino bus trip, a Salem bus trip, Greatest Generation show and the famous elegant New Year's Eve Party. We have a very busy year planned, but it will only succeed if you participate and join us in the fun and fellowship.

Remember the Pioneer Valley Shrine Club is open to Shriners, their wives, their partners, family, and friends. Its mission is to promote fun and fellowship, so bring a friend along. To book your reservations or have any questions or suggestions please call Michelle Greaves at 413-427-9178, thank you.

La kxn (goodbye)

MELHA GOLF LEAGUE

By Ed Batchelder

The Melha Golf League official kickoff is on April 7 at the East Mountain Country Club in Westfield MA. Tee times at 3pm with $19 per round a week. Come out and join for some fun on the links. All Shriners and Masons are welcomed regardless of ability to play. For details or to sign contact Ed Batchelder at (413) 531-6261 or ed@batchelderassociates.com

POTE'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 4

one to be at if you want to go. Potentate's weekend starts the next weekend with Friday night being "A Night with the RAT PACK". Saturday, we will be at the Log Cabin for the night's reception with our counterparts from all over the Northeast.

Masonic Awareness Night is April 14th with Ben Franklin at the Butterfield Auditorium. This is a show for history buffs. Come on down, all are welcomed - friends, neighbors, non-Mason, and Shriners. Bring your own snacks.

On April 22, the First Lady is having a Comedy Night to benefit her project for the Hospital. There are only 300 tickets to this event and they will go fast. You can get tickets upstairs in the office or the hospital. Just remember to have FUN at whatever you do. And remember, we do it not for ourselves; we do it for the kids.

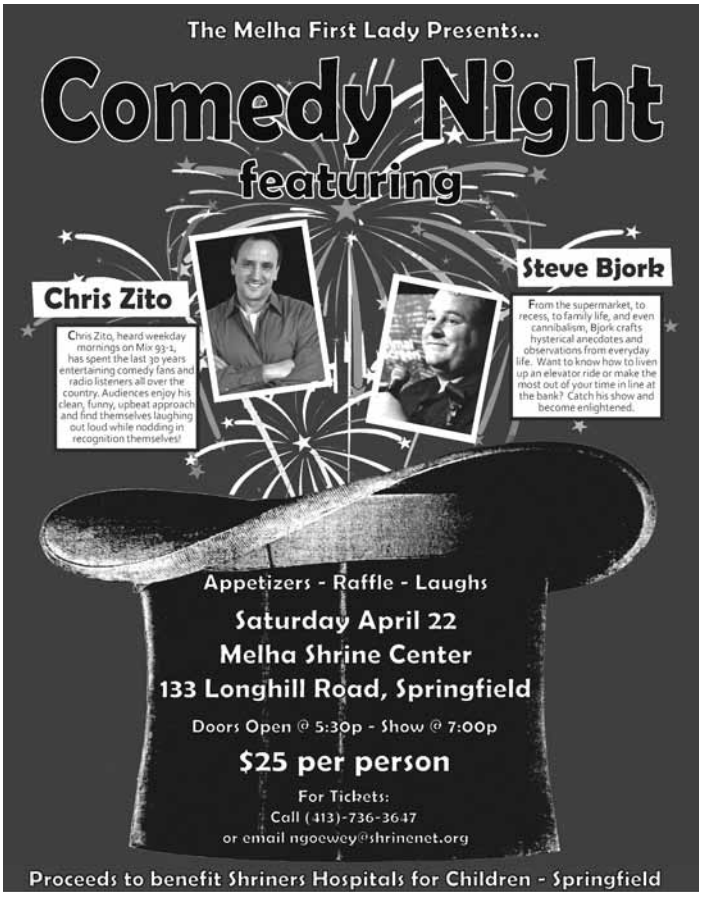
Yours in the Faith,

Ray Turrini, Potentate



L-R. Bros. Jeffrey Hastings receives 25 yr pin , Art Hastings, Sr. receives 50 yr pin & Art Hastings, Jr. 25 Yr pin of Elm Belcher Lodge







MELHA CIRCUS

Continued from page 1

Balderdash! Here's a generic description of a circus "A circus is a special kind of entertainment that can be enjoyed by children and adults. Circuses are a group of performers that may include acrobats, clowns, trained animals, trapeze acts, musicians, hoopers, tightrope walkers, jugglers and other artists who perform stunts."

What could be more fun? And it is LIVE!

> ***There are really two times when the circus means something to people. Once when they are children and see it through their own eyes and, again, when they have the opportunity to see it through their children's eyes."***
>
> ***- Art Buchwald***

So, what is the answer to bringing this new generation to our circus? And if we find the answer, I know that they will be dragging their parents along to buy the tickets, popcorn, and souvenirs?

We should "invite" them to our circus. Create a buzz. Build up a curiosity in advance and make them excited to come. Give them a reason. Create the demand.

The solution will be difficult and frustrating but very rewarding. It will be creating a tradition within a whole new generation. And, Just like the front-page photo illustrates, the little girl is discovering how much fun a circus can be.

Here are some fun facts that I found online, to help you with your sales pitch.

CLOWN TRIVIA

The first clown has been traced back to the year 3,000 B.C.

There are three types of clowns:

1. White Face Clowns: with white face paint
2. Auguste Clowns: with flesh tones showing through their makeup
3. Character Clowns (such as the Hobo): with black makeup around the mouth, resembling a beard

Clowning has a hierarchy, with the White Face Clown at the high end, and the Hobo at the low end. This understood hierarchy means that an Auguste Clown can never play a trick on a White Face Clown – but a White Face Clown can play a trick on anybody.

A clown's face is his/her trademark, which cannot be copied by any other clown. However, the clothes and acts of a clown can be imitated.

To trademark a clown face, clowns send a photo of their face into the Clown and Character Registry, where the face is then painted on a goose egg and kept in the registry. The tradition of painting a clown face on a goose egg dates back to the 1500's.

COTTON CANDY

• Nothing says Circus like cotton candy. But until the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, few people knew what cotton candy was.

• Ironically enough, a dentist invented the sweet treat in 1897 and sold it at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition as "Fairy Floss." Although each serving cost 25 cents back then – a hefty price at the time and half of the price of a fair ticket – the spun sugar on a stick sold well.

• However, it would take another 16 years for it to become commonplace for people to call the fluffy stuff "Cotton Candy."

TEST YOUR CIRCUS I.Q.?

Where did the name "Circus" originate?

From Latin meaning "ring" or "circle" referring to the circuit made by the horses and chariots as they raced

Where did the modern nomadic Circus originate, and when?

In England in 1768, with Philip Astley

When was the first American Circus presented?

By John Bill Ricketts in 1793 in Philadelphia – then the capital of the United States. George Washington and other founding fathers enjoyed these performances.

What city has had a Circus every year since 1793?

New York City

What does an adult elephant eat, and how much daily?

150 pounds of hay, 10 pounds of bran or oats – and all the peanuts, crackerjacks, and popcorn that visitors will give it!

In one day, how much water does an elephant drink?

About 30 gallons on a hot day

• What sex is an elephant "bull"?

All circus elephants are known as "bulls," but most circus elephants are female because they are more manageable and trustworthy than the males.



Photos by Bert Krasner & Carla Wessels. 2016 Melha Shrine Circus. Melha Shrine Clowns grand entry parade.

IT'S ITALIAN NIGHT at the Butterfield Auditorium

Friday April 7, 2017

6:00 PM Cocktail Hour - 7:00 PM Dinner



Enjoy an Italian Buffet Dinner that would make 'Nonna' jealous. Mangia!

Snap those fingers. Dance to the Crazy' and Coo Coo tunes of Frank and the Rat Pack with our special DJ. 'That's Amore!'

Melha's Divan

Cordially invites you and all visiting dignitaries to join them as they honor

Potentate Raymond A. Turrini and His First Lady Denise

at Melha Shrine's

Potentate's Reception

Saturday April 8, 2017

6:00 p.m - 6:30 Social Hour / 7:30 p.m. Dinner

The Log Cabin Banquet House

500 Easthampton Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040

*Formal dress with Fez for Nobles, and jacket and tie for guests.

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FREE



AHLEM TEMPLE 84

By Audrey Millgate

A Joyous occasion, the Installation of Queen Sandra Dodson and her Officers was held on Saturday, March 18. Piped into the auditorium by Worshipful William Dart, Queen Sandra was on the arm of Noble Anthony Leroux, with an Honor Guard of Knights Templar. The solemn but elegant ceremony was conducted by Installing Queen Carolyn Dion PQ and her installing officers, Past Queens of the temple, with musical accompaniment by Noble David Fournier. Each new Queen of the temple is raised to new height by the traditions established by the Daughters of the Nile for over 100 years and by Ahlem Temple's Queens for almost 70 years. The room was decorated in Queen Sandra's Pixie colors of Mauve, Lime Green and Turquoise by Pr. Betty Fogg and crew.

The attendance of Shriners Hospital official, Shrine Nobility, Ladies of the Oriental Shrine, the Masonic Fraternity, and sister Daughters of the Nile from surrounding temples was most welcome. The formal photography was in charge of Noble Charles Bacon. Photographs will be available on request at April Session. Performances by the beautifully costumed Bedouin Bells and stately Patrol entertained the guests. A bountiful collation was provided by the Ladies of the Household.

The goal of Ahlem Temple is to be visible everywhere you turn. We will be there in our green shirts and/or white jackets. Find us at the Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner on April 12, at the Shrine Circus and many other public events. We will no longer be a well-kept secret and our good works will be known to all. That is a big boast but we will give it a good try.

FORGET-ME-NOTS

By Edith Sweeney



Congratulations to Queen Sandy Dodson! Our group enjoyed welcoming Spring on March 17th with lunch at Center Square Grill. Our next meeting is planned for Friday, April 21st 12:00 PM. at the Olive Garden on Boston Rd and Parker St. Please save the date and stay tuned! Watch for the Easter Bunny hopping your way bringing warmer temperatures and blessings (maybe some chocolate, too). Please contact Corinne Pierson 413-789-8148, Claire Patruno 413-596-3251, or Edith Sweeney esweeney12@cox.net for information anytime.

HELMA COURT 64

By Anita Tetreault

On Saturday, March 11, 2017, at Melha Shrine Center, Helma Court held the Installation of Officers, with Lady Patricia Semb becoming High Priestess. Two Past Grand High Priestesses attended; Lady Marshall Maxwell, Grand Recorder, PGHP, Egypt Court No. 76, Louisville, KY, who served as Installing Grand Officer, and Lady Patricia Miller, PGHP, Kadesh Court No. 19, Akron, OH, who served as Installing Grand Oriental Guide. Helma Court was honored by their presence.

TEKOA CHAPTER

By Dad Giguere Jr.

Sat. Apr. 1 - Tekoa Demolay April fools dance. Westfield Masonic Lodge, 5pm - 10pm. $7.00 entry fee.



Photo by Mike Robinson. A very tired Rainbow Assembly pancake breakfast team.





Photo by Mike Robinson. Lady Sandy Dodson was installed as Queen of Ahlem Temple 84, Daughters of the Nile on March 18, 2017. Queen Sandy with the 'Bedouin Belles'.



29th Masonic District 'Lodge of Instruction' and tour of the Shriners Hospital for Children.



Photo by Bert Krasner. Lady Pat Semb was installed as High Priestess of Helma Court No. 64, March 11, 2017. Lady Pat and the ladies of Helma Court.





Photos by Carla Wessels & Bert Krasner. Brrrrr! Leprechaun Plunge, Brunelles Marina, South Hadley, MA. Melha Shriners take the "plunge" for Shriners Hospital for Children





St. Patrick's Day 2017 - Melha Shriners on Parade

WORCESTER, MA



Photo by Carla Wessels. Melha Shriners at the Worcester St. Patrick's Day Parade





Photos by Carla Wessels. Melha Shriners at the Worcester St. Patrick's Day Parade



Photo by Carla Wessels. Melha Shriners at the Worcester St. Patrick's Day Parade

HOLYOKE, MA



Photo by Bert Krasner. Melha Shriners at the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade





Photos by Bert Krasner. Melha Shriners at the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade



Photo by Bert Krasner. Melha Shriners at the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade

JACK BETHEL

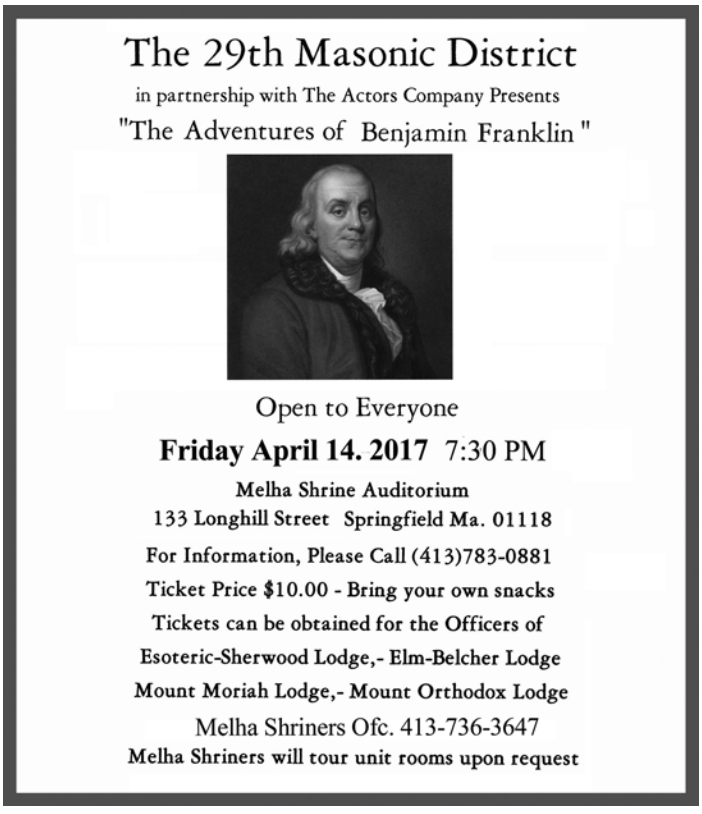
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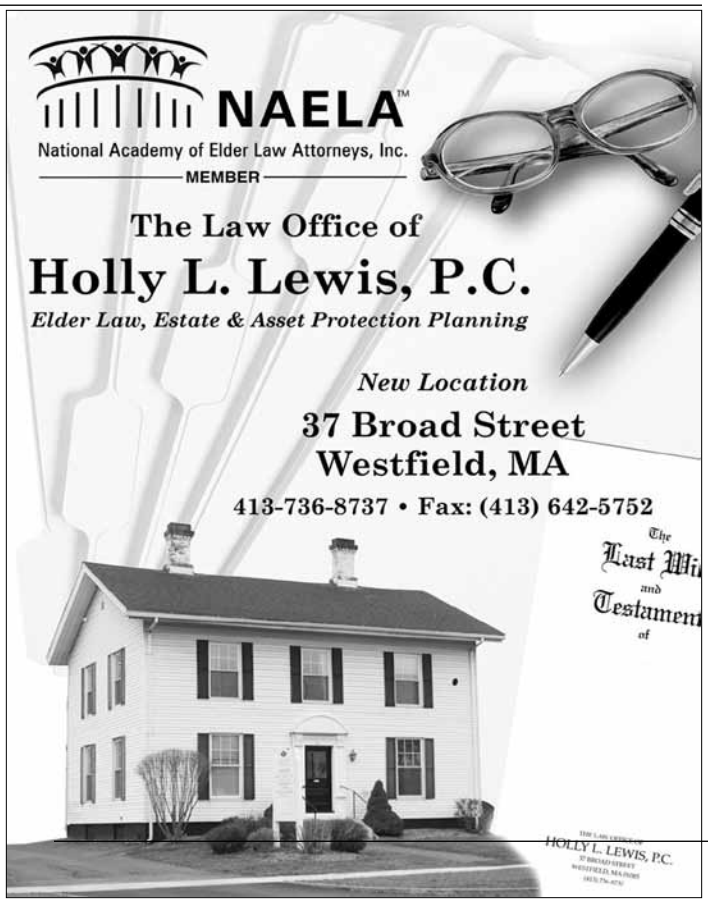
1967. Jack spent his career in the insurance field, starting at the Home Insurance Company in 1956 and then the Towne Insurance Agency. Jack met and married Joyce (nee Libbert) on August 20, 1960.

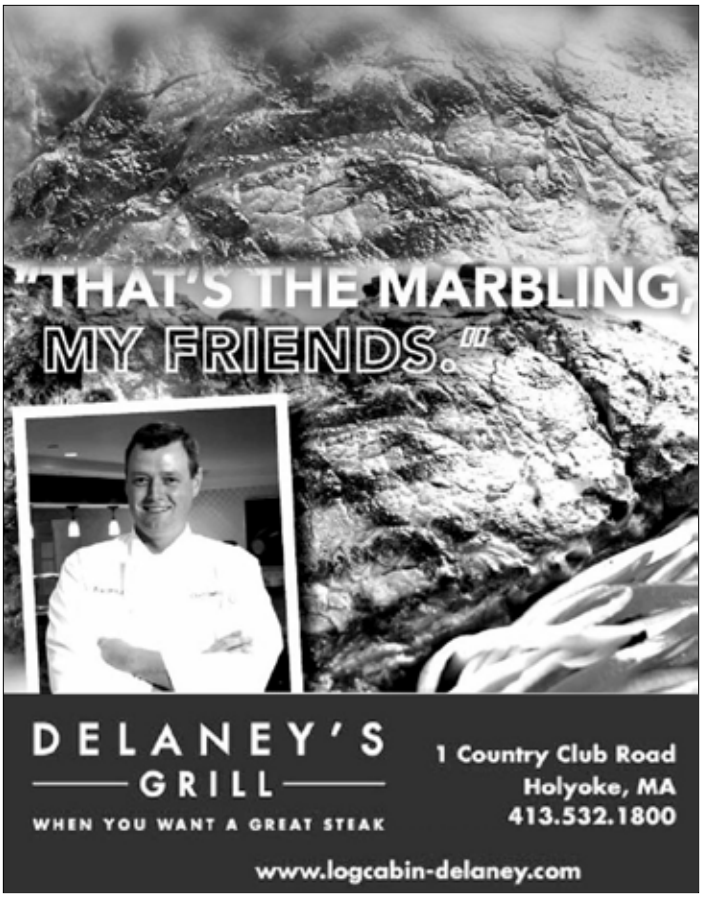
Jack Bethel was a member of Pythagorean Lodge and of the York Rite of MA. He became a very passionate Melha Shriner joining the Melha Legion of Honor and the Melha Military Band, where he served as President. The Shrine role he particularly cherished was that of board member for both hospitals and was rewarded with emeritus status for his long and distinguished service.

He and Joyce made many close Shrine friends, with whom they socialized and traveled extensively. The Bethels brightened every event they attended and were the consummate host and hostess. Their lives were enriched by their beloved "Coco Channel" who was their constant companion. Jack loved music, especially the Big Band sound. He played his clarinet in a community Dixieland band, the "Blue Skies Big Band" and the Melha Military Band. He was also an avid and accomplished golfer and played the game well into his 80s.

The Bethels were dedicated to the Shrine Fraternity and to Shriners Hospitals for Children. They showed that love and commitment by their support and generous financial contributions. It was only fitting that the Melha Shriners honored Illustrious Jack's memory by naming the living room after him.







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Melha Calendar of Events

April 2017

Sat, Apr 1 .....6:00 PM Highlanders Fling **[BA]**
Wed, Apr 5 ..... 7:00 PM Membership Mtg
Thu, Apr 6..... 7:00 PM Nile Meeting
Fri, Apr 7.....6:00 PM Potes Weekend - Italian Night **[BA]**
Sat, Apr 8 ...6:00 PM Potes Weekend - Reception Log Cabin
Mon, Apr 10.....6:00 PM Franklin Shrine Club
Mon, Apr 10..... 6:30 PM Board of Directors Mtg.
Mon, Apr 10 Passover 1st Night
Wed, Apr 12.....6:30 PM Melha Trustees Mtg
Thu, Apr 13.6:30 PM Berkshire Shrine Club - Basswater Grill
Fri, Apr 14... 7:30 PM Ben Franklin Masonic Awareness **[BA]**
Sun, Apr 16 Easter
Thu, Apr 20 6:00 PM Central Mass Shrine Club - Publik Hse, Sturbridge
Fri, Apr 21.....7:00 PM Family Fun Night **[BA]**
Sat, Apr 22 ..... 10:00 AM Circus Promotion Pittsfield Big Y
Sat, Apr 22 .....5:30 PM Comedy Night **[BA]**
Mon, Apr 24..... 6:00 PM Circus Mtg
Wed, Apr 26 ..... 6:30 PM Board of Directors Mtg
Wed, Apr 26 ..... 7:30 PM Melha Shrine Stated Meeting **[BA]**
Sat, Apr 29 ..... 10:00 AM Circus Promotion - Ludlow Big Y
Sun, Apr 30 ..... 11:00 AM Circus Promotion - W. Spfld IHOP



BA = Butterfield Auditorium